## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-43, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Please add new Claims 44-63, as follows.

44. (New) An optical material which is formed by mixing materials comprising a first material having a refractive index of not more than 1.45 for the d-line and a second material having an Abbe number, indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, of not more than 25, wherein with a predetermined ratio of mixture of said first material and second material, a relation between a refractive index for the d-line  $(n_d)$  and an Abbe number  $(v_d)$  is defined as follows:

$$n_d \le -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70.$$

45. (New) The optical material according to Claim 44, wherein the Abbe number  $(v_d)$ , indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, is less than 40.

46. (New) An optical material which is formed by mixing materials comprising a first material having a refractive index of not more than 1.40 for the d-line and a second material having an Abbe number, indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, of not more than 15, wherein with a predetermined ratio of mixture of said first material and second material, a relation between a refractive index for the d-line  $(n_d)$  and an Abbe number  $(v_d)$  is defined as follows:

$$n_d \le -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70.$$

47. (New) The optical material according to Claim 46, wherein the Abbe number  $(v_d)$ , indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, is less than 40.

~3

48. (New) An optical material which is formed by mixing materials comprising a first material having a refractive index of not more than 1.45, and not more than 1.55 for the d-line, and a second material having an Abbe number, indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, of not more than 10, wherein with a predetermined ratio of mixture of said first material and second material, a relation between a refractive index for the d-line  $(n_d)$  and an Abbe number  $(v_d)$  is defined as follows:

$$n_d \le -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70.$$

49. (New) The optical material according to Claim 48, wherein the Abbe number  $(v_d)$ , indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, is less than 40.

v١

50. (New) An optical member formed by an optical material which is formed by mixing materials comprising a first material having a refractive index of not more than 1.45 for the d-line and a second material having an Abbe number, indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, of not more than 25, wherein with a predetermined ratio of mixture of said first material and second material, a relation between a refractive index for the d-line  $(n_d)$  and an Abbe number  $(v_d)$  is defined as follows:

$$n_d \le -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70.$$

- 51. (New) The optical material according to Claim 50, wherein the Abbe number  $(v_d)$ , indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, is less than 40.
- 52. (New) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said second material comprises particles having a grain size in the range of 2 to 100 nm.
- 53. (New) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said first material is an amorphous fluororesin.
- 54. (New) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said second material is particles of a composite metal oxide of titanium and silicon ( $Si_x$ - $Ti_{(1-x)}O_2$ ) having the Abbe number ( $v_d$ ) of 24.4.
- 55. (New) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said first material is an amorphous fluororesin, said second material is particles of a composite metal oxide of titanium and silicon ( $Si_x$ - $Ti_{(1-x)}O_2$ ) having the Abbe number ( $v_d$ ) of 24.4, and a weight ratio of the particles and said amorphous fluororesin is in the range of 45:100 to 75:100.
- 56. (New) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said first material is a dimethylsilicone resin.

- 57. (New) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said first material comprises particles of titanium oxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>).
- 58. (New) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said first material is a dimethylsilicone resin, said second material is particles of titanium oxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>), and a weight ratio of the titanium oxide and said dimethylsilicone resin is in the range of 18:100 to 70:100.
- 59. (New) An optical system comprising the optical member according to Claim 50.
- 60. (New) An optical device comprising the optical system according to Claim 59.

ď

61. (New) A diffracting optical element formed by an optical material which is formed by mixing materials comprising a first material having a refractive index of not more than 1.45 for the d-line and a second material having an Abbe number, indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, of not more than 25, wherein with a predetermined ratio of mixture of said first material and second material, a relation between a refractive index for the d-line  $(n_d)$  and an Abbe number  $(v_d)$  is defined as follows:

$$n_d \, \leq \, \text{-}6.667 \,\, x \,\, 10^{\text{-}3} \,\, \nu_d + 1.70.$$

- 62. (New) An optical system comprising the diffracting optical element according to Claim 61.
- 63. (New) An optical device comprising the optical system according to Claim 62.